

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. Applicants elected Species I, including independent claim 1, without traverse for the purpose of examination of the present application.

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to because the reference numeral “17a” has been used to designate both the “housing peripheral surface,” and “second bearing” (Page 11, lines 4 and 7.) Accordingly, the Specification has been amended to clarify the function of the housing peripheral surface 17a as follows:

Page 11, second paragraph, “The main shaft 5 is rotatably supported by the housing peripheral surface 17a, which acts as the second bearing, 17a via the inner rotor 26.”

Applicants submit that this correction to the Specification would overcome the objection to the drawings, and respectfully request the withdrawal of such objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sawai et al.* (Japanese Publication No.: JP 04-081586). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicants point out the following requirement in MPEP § 2131 for § 102 rejections:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.’ *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. Of California*, 814 F2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir.

1987). ‘The identical invention must be shown **in as complete detail** as is contained in the ... claims.’ *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).” (Emphasis added.)

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “the main shaft supported only by a first bearing and a second bearing disposed on axially opposite sides thereof.” Applicants respectfully submit that *Sawai et al.* fails to teach or suggest this feature. The *Sawai et al.* reference expressly discloses, at most, first and second bushings (Fig. 1, 15, 22) to seal or guide the main shaft 18 through the openings 16 and 23. The *Sawai et al.* device utilizes other means for supporting the main shaft. The bushings 15 and 22 are merely for guiding and sealing purposes, incapable of supporting the main shaft as specifically claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. Thus, the *Sawai et al.* reference fails to teach or reasonably suggest the desirability of utilizing only first and second bearings at axially opposite ends of the main shaft, for supporting the main shaft so as to avoid the occurrence of the faulty rotation of the shaft, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that bearings and bushings are structurally different, and perform different functions within a structure respectively. According to the Webster’s Third New International Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged, the definition of **bearing** is:

“**4a:** *an object, surface, or point that supports: supporting power: point of supporting* **b:** *the act or fact of carrying or supporting* **c:** *a machine part in which a journal, gudgeon, pivot, pin, or other part revolves, oscillates, or slides*”.

In contrast, the definition of *bushing* is:

“1: a usu. removable lining or sleeve of metal or other material that is inserted or screwed into an opening (as of a mechanical part) to limit its size, resist wear or erosion, or serve as a guide 2: an insulating sleeve inserted in an opening in a metal plate or case (as of a microphone or electric clock) to protect a through conductor from abrasion and possible short circuit”.

As can be seen by the above definitions, the bushings as relied on by the Examiner in the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claim 1 is incapable of supporting the main shaft 5 as claimed in the present invention.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to define the first and second bearings are in fact roller bearings to further distinguish the *Sawai et al.* device from the present invention. No new matter has been introduced into the present application. Support of the roller bearings can be found on page 6, 3rd paragraph, and page 7, last paragraph.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is now allowable. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above remarks/arguments, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the application and expedite prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments:

Replacement Sheets (3 pages)

Annotated sheets showing changes (3 pages)